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JERUSALEM FOR GEORGE SHERMAN

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TAGS PFOR

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR INTERVIEW WITH
WALDHEIM

1. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR JANUARY 18 PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM UNDER BY-LINE OF JOHN K. COOLEY, DATELINED ATHENS. TEXT THIS INTERVIEW FOLLOWS:
 2. QUOTE THE UNITED STATES HAS A CENTRAL ROLE TO PLAY AS MEDIATOR IN THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, SAYS UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM.
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IN AN INTERVIEW HERE WITH THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR,
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ALSO STRESSED THESE POINTS:

--DRAMATIC CHANGES OF ATTITUDES ARE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE
RESULTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THE BASIC QUESTION IS
WHETHER ISRAEL IS READY TO MAKE THE BASIC CONCESSIONS

THAT WOULD ENABLE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS MADE SINCE HIS HISTORIC JERUSALEM TRIP LAST NOVEMBER.

--A SOLUTION WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND FOR THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. "THIS IS THE KEY ISSUE AND YOU CAN'T AVOID IT."

MR. WALDHEIM CAME TO ATHENS FOR TALKS WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD DECLINED AN INVITATION TO BE PRESENT AT THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS IN JERUSALEM BECAUSE HE HAD NO MANDATE FROM EITHER THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PARTICIPATE.

"I DON'T SEE A ROLE FOR THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, BECAUSE IT IS A BILATERAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WITH THE HELP AND PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"THEREFORE, IF SOMEBODY MEDIATES HERE, IT IS THE UNITED STATES. I THINK THE UN STILL HAS A VERY USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY AND IT WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT ONLY A GLOBAL SOLUTION CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT CAN BE DONE IN PHASES -- CERTAINLY NOT IN A FEW WEEKS. AND IT MUST SOLVE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PALESTINIAN ISSUE. THIS IS THE KEY ISSUE, AND YOU CAN'T AVOID IT."

-- SITUATION DELICATE

MR. WALDHEIM SAID THE ENTIRE MIDEAST SITUATION AS THE TALKS OPENED WAS "DELICATE." HE FOUND "A GROWING DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL. YOU HAVE THE PROBLEM OF THE (ISRAELI) SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI, AS WELL AS IN THE WEST BANK. YOU HAVE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT POSITION BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF ISRAEL AND THE ARABS ON THE QUESTION OF (ISRAELI) WITHDRAWAL.

"THERE ARE KEY DIFFERENCES. AND I THINK THAT DRAMATIC CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDES OF THE PARTIES IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE RESULTS. AND OF COURSE, THE BASIC QUESTION IS WHETHER ISRAEL IS READY TO MAKE THE BASIC CONCESSIONS TO ENABLE SADAT TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS MADE.

"SELF-RULE (FOR THE PALESTINIANS), OR AUTONOMY, OR WHATEVER WE CALL IT," AS OFFERED BY ISRAEL, "IS NOT

ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARABS, NOT EVEN TO SADAT, WHO IS A MOST CONCILIATORY MAN," THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL CONTINUED. "HE SAYS THIS IS NOT ENOUGH, THIS IS NOT SOVEREIGNTY FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

"THEREFORE SOME FORMULA WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH GIVES THEM SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THIS."

-- TALLES ADMITTED

MR. WALDHEIM ACKNOWLEDGED, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT "IT SEEMS," AS SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASSAD HAS SAID, THAT TOP-LEVEL ARRANGEMENTS TO FIND A FORMULA FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE WERE BEING MADE WHEN MR. SADAT MADE HIS "ENORMOUSLY DRAMATIC AND COURAGEOUS MOVE" TO GO TO JERUSALEM.

PROGRESS IN JERUSALEM, MR. WALDHEIM AGREED, COULD IMPROVE THE OUTLOOK FOR PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION, "BUT IF NO PROGRESS IS MADE IN JERUSALEM, THEN I THINK WE'LL BE FACED WITH A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION."

MR. WALDHEIM HINTED THAT HIS UNSUCCESSFUL DECEMBER PROPOSAL FOR A MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE, AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK OR ELSEWHERE, MIGHT STILL BE TAKEN UP AS A SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM OF DRAWING MORE PARTICIPANTS INTO THE MIDEAST PEACE TALKS.

"THE PURPOSE OF THAT PROPOSAL," MR. WALDHEIM EXPLAINED, "WAS TO CREATE A SAFETY NET. IF WE LOOK BACK NOW AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED, YOU WILL PERHAPS UNDERSTAND THAT THE IDEA," PROPOSED AND ACCEPTED INFORMALLY BY THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE ARABS, BUT REJECTED BY ISRAEL, "WAS NOT SO BAD."

"I WAS WORRIED," HE CONTINUED, "RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, WHEN I SAW THAT ONLY TWO PARTIES (EGYPT AND ISRAEL) PARTICIPATED, AND THAT THE OTHERS, EVEN THE MODERATE ONES LIKE KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, DIDN'T COME."

-- FIRST STEPS SOUGHT

"SO I SAID" 'WE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO GO DIRECTLY FROM A BILATERAL MEETING TO GENEVA. WE MUST FIRST GET AT LEAST SOME OF THE OTHERS BACK INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.' "
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ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION AND OTHER GREEK-TURKISH DIFFICULTIES, WHICH U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE PLANS TO DISCUSS WHEN HE VISITS ANKARA AND PROBABLY ATHENS AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, THE UN DOES HAVE A DIRECT PEACE-MAKING ROLE, MR. WALDHEIM EXPLAINED.

MR. WALDHEIM SAID HE WISHED TO AVOID FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE PRESTIGE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OFFICE THAN WAS DONE LAST YEAR. GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERS FAILED, DURING THE APRIL, 1977, VIENNA TALKS IN HIS PRESENCE TO LIVE UP TO PRINCIPLES AND PROMISES AGREED AT THE FEBRUARY, 1977, MEETING BETWEEN THE LATE PRESIDENT MAKARIOS OF CYPRUS AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER RAOUF DENKTASH. THE TALKS STALLED. END QUOTE.

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